Airport development in Sikkim

4295. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme and programme for construction of airport in the State of Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of financial assistance granted to Sikkim for development of Gangtok airport during the years, 2006-07 and 2007-08; and

(d) by when the above airport is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has approved the construction of a Greenfield airport at Pekyong in Sikkim.

(c) No central assistance was provided to Sikkim for development of Gangtok airport during the annual plan 2006-07. Although, the annual plan 2007-08 has been finalized, the sectoral allocations have not been received from the State Government for the approval of the Planning Commission.

(d) Construction of Greenfield airport will be completed within a period of three years from award of work.

Congestion during peak summer season

4296. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air congestion is quite high at the metro airport in Delhi and Mumbai, especially during the peak holiday summer seasons; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in a bid to address the problem of congestion at these airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is congestion at Delhi and Mumbai airports during peak hours.

(b) To reduce the air traffic congestion at Delhi and Mumbai airports, the measures taken include construction of new high speed exist taxiways,

simultaneous use of both runways, improved ATC procedures, restriction on general aviation aircraft movement, ATC automation system etc.

Expansion of Shimla airport

†4297. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have any scheme for the expansion of the Shimla airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh to construct a new airport in Sundernagar; and

(d) if so, the action being taken thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Developmental works to the possible extent are being carried out at Shimla airport, Himachal Pradesh which includes, enhancement of space by carrying out modifications in the existing Terminal Building and construction of a new Fire Station of category IV & Emergency Medical Centre etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Further initiation in the matter is subject to submission of Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) by the State Government for Construction of a Greenfield airport along with NOC from Ministry of Defence and environmental clearance and meteorological data of the site.

Shortage of pilots

†4298. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of pilots to compete the competitive challenges successfully at National and International level keeping in view the rapid expansion of Civil Aviation service;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.